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Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Letter dated 8 October 1998 from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Baku Declaration adopted at the International Conference on Restoration of the Historic Silk Route, held at Baku, on 7 and 8 September 1998 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 91 and 93.

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Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Vladimir **Sotirov**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Peter **Chkheidze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Akmaral **Arystanbekova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Zamira **Eshmambetova**
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(*Signed*) Ion **Botnaru**
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(*Signed*) Eugeniusz **Wyzner**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Ion **Gorita**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Rashid **Alimov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Volkan **Vural**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and Russian]

Baku Declaration, adopted at Baku on 8 September 1998

The heads of State and Government and heads of delegation participating in the International Conference on Restoration of the Historic Silk Route, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

Expressing their aspiration for fruitful and mutually beneficial economic and trade cooperation,

Acknowledging the importance of the development of interlinked national and regional transport infrastructures for the expansion of cooperation in the regions of Europe, the Black Sea, the Caucasus, the Caspian Sea and Asia,

Stressing their common interest in the development of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor, including the transport routes of the Black Sea region, on the basis of the revival of the ancient transport route of human civilization, the Great Silk Route,

Noting the importance of the principles and objectives of the Brussels Declaration of 7 May 1993 as well as adherence to the generally recognized principles and norms of international law,

Emphasizing the importance of the implementation of the TRASECA programme to provide sustainable access to trans-European and trans-Asiatic transport networks for the landlocked countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia,

Noting the positive role of regional and subregional interaction and cooperation in establishing international peace and security, and the growth of confidence and stability,

Declare as follows:

1. The Parties support the initiatives and efforts undertaken in the interests of developing the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor and express their satisfaction with the implementation process of the main objectives of the Brussels Declaration.

2. Noting the contribution of the European Union made to the implementation of the TRASECA programme, the Parties welcome the European Union's resolution to take further coordinated actions to promote the above-mentioned programme and to develop the Europe-Caucasus-Asia corridor.

3. The Parties emphasize in particular the importance of safeguarding peace, security, stability and confidence, the settlement of regional conflicts on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the principles and decisions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the successful implementation of projects within the framework of the TRASECA programme and the sustainable functioning of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor.

4. The Parties underline the significance of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor in the context of international cooperation for the development of the countries of the Caspian Sea and Central Asia region and express their readiness to provide to those countries free access to seaports. Noting the particular role and position of the region in the architecture of Eurasian integration being formed, the Parties express their support for the efforts of the countries of the region directed towards closer integration with international trade and transport systems and for the expansion of cooperation in the field of rehabilitation

and optimization of the existing transport infrastructures for transporting goods, including energy to world markets, and the initiation of and assistance in the establishment of new ones that are environmentally secure and cost-effective.

5. The Parties note with satisfaction that growing interest in the revival of the Great Silk Route, in particular through the implementation of the TRASECA programme, and invite all interested States to pool their material and human resources to encourage mutually beneficial cooperation for the achievement of that objective.

6. The Parties express their intention to pursue cooperation in developing the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor with the United Nations economic commissions for Europe and for Asia and the Pacific, other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization and other international organizations and financial institutions.

7. The Parties agree that strengthening the institutional and legal framework of cooperation for developing the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor will promote the increased efficiency of interaction between the participating States. In this respect the Parties welcome the signing of the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia Corridor (the Basic Agreement) as an important institutional mechanism to help develop and regulate the international transport of goods and passengers, including transport in transit, coordination and harmonization of transport policies and legal frameworks in the field of transport. The Parties also express the hope that the setting up of an Intergovernmental Commission and its Permanent Secretariat as well as the setting up of permanent representations of the Permanent Secretariat in each of the participating States in the Basic Agreement will promote the efficient implementation of the provisions of the Basic Agreement.

8. The Parties note the importance of the coordinating mechanisms for participation in the implementation of the TRASECA programme established at the national level as well as within the framework of the European Union.

9. The Parties confirm their intention to use the dynamics and potential of private entrepreneurship to increase the effectiveness of cooperation, initiation and implementation of investment projects meeting the objectives of development of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor.

10. The Parties express their satisfaction with the results of the Baku International Conference on Restoration of the Historic Silk Route as an important milestone in the institutional strengthening and enhancement of cooperation for the further development of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor in the interests of the economic progress of the participating States.

11. The Parties highly appreciate the initiative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Heydar Aliyev, and the President of Georgia, H.E. Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, as well as the support of the European Union for the idea of holding an International Conference on Restoration of the Historic Silk Route.

12. The Parties express their appreciation to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting in Baku this International Conference and for the excellent organizational arrangements, and for the cordiality and hospitality extended to them by the Government and people of Azerbaijan.

Republic of Armenia

Republic of Azerbaijan

Republic of Bulgaria

Georgia

Republic of Kazakhstan

Kyrgyz Republic

Republic of Moldova

Mongolia

Republic of Poland

Romania

Republic of Tajikistan

Republic of Turkey

Ukraine

Republic of Uzbekistan